

Last year, I introduced legislation to kill the pension of a member of Congress convicted of a felony (H.R. 4535, the Congressional Integrity and Pension Forfeiture Act). Key provisions were included in H.R. 4975 that just passed the House.

I voted in favor of the bill because it included this key reform.

The best part of my reform is that it falls hardest on senior Members of Congress who are the Chairs and Ranking Minority Members of committees. Freshman members of Congress do not get pensions. Senior members of Congress have the most authority - and now would suffer the most severe penalties.

This reform passed the House in 1996 but was killed by Senators. We must urge the Senate to act this time. If we can quickly enact this reform, we can move to kill the pensions of several now infamous members of Congress facing criminal sanction.